

1 demand no less. Keep the --

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

3 MR. MORGAN: -- gory fingers from our  
4 children's table, and shame to those who stand in this  
5 threshold and --

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

7 MR. MORGAN: -- surrender.

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Can you state your  
11 name, please?

12 MS. SCHOENBACHER: Gail Schoenbacher. I'm  
13 pleased to be a participant of this experience. To me  
14 this is an issue of freedom of speech as well as  
15 freedom of the press. It's only logical that the more  
16 people whose voices are heard, the more democratic the  
17 message will be.

18 If only a handful of profitable companies,  
19 whose interest is making more money, had the most  
20 opportunities to speak to us, tell us what we want,  
21 how to live, and portray the images of us, and some of  
22 those are violent and negative, it cannot be  
23 beneficial for the future of the United States.

24 I know many people today have felt their  
25 minority was not represented. I, as a member of the

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1 female White majority, also do not feel represented by  
2 the direction of the media and where it's moving. I  
3 have turned off my TV because it does not represent  
4 me. It does not speak to me, it simply repeats, be  
5 afraid, and buy, buy, buy.

6 I've attended events which were not  
7 covered, or worse, misrepresented. I've learned more  
8 about benefits from friends in foreign countries than  
9 from our own media.

10 I might find a blurb about foreign events  
11 on page 94. Will these hearings be covered on page 1?  
12 They should be.

13 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

14 MS. SCHOENBACHER: Please preserve and  
15 expand the diversity and freedom of our speech  
16 necessary for a healthy future of our country. Thank  
17 you.

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Okay. Please state  
21 your name.

22 MR. GAMBILL: Tom Gambill. Thank you, Mr.  
23 Chairman. I just spoke my name. I've lived in three  
24 conflict zones over the past 11 years. Big media  
25 that's owned by the military industrial complex

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1 controlled by the Council of Foreign Relations  
2 eliminates diverse, local, independent programming in  
3 the interest of profits, and in many cases errantly  
4 influencing American citizens concerning political,  
5 social, and economic issues.

6 In this land of free speech, which is a  
7 First Amendment right, it is hard to believe that the  
8 U.S. has anything but an objective and honest press.  
9 This is not the case.

10 Quote from David Rockefeller, Chairman  
11 Emeritus of the Council of Foreign Relations, June  
12 1991, thanking *The Washington Post*, *New York Times*,  
13 *Time Magazine*, other great publications whose  
14 directors have attended our meetings and respected  
15 their promise of discretion for almost 40 years, "It's  
16 been -- it would have been impossible for us to  
17 develop our plans for the world if we'd been subject  
18 to the bright light of publicity during these years."

19 Chairman, our involvement in Kosovo was  
20 grossly errant, and as justification said 100,000  
21 Kosovo Albanians were missing, believed massacred,  
22 while at the same time the media covered extensively  
23 the indiscretions of a former president overshadowing  
24 the Kosovo conflict.

25 There's a proposal of the merging of

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1 Canada, Mexico, and the United States into one country  
2 called the North American Union. In October 2006,  
3 President Bush signed into law the National Defense  
4 Authorization Act of 2007 --

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 MR. GAMBILL: -- allowing --

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

8 MR. GAMBILL: -- marshal law.

9 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

10 MR. GAMBILL: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Before you start, I'd  
13 like to call out the final names on our registration  
14 list for public commenters today, those people who  
15 still in attendance please come forward.

16 Reverend Robert Moore, Cordelia Barlow,  
17 Andy Thayer, Warren Rhodes, Joe McCoskey -- McCloskey,  
18 Martin Grant, Hunter Adams, Rejinald Fisher, Don  
19 Goldhamer, Clifton Rahim Bradley, Jeanette Foreman,  
20 Mary Green, Cheryl Cornelius, Alan Gomez, Leslie  
21 Fiedler, Josh Rosenblah, Sabrina Darts, De-Anne  
22 Burley, Jarrad Anthony, Omer Abid.

23 Sir, could you please state your name, and  
24 begin.

25 MR. PARAMORE: Hey, I'm Jay Paramore, but

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1 for the record just call me Joe Citizen, representing  
2 the lumpenproletariat.

3 You know -- are they gone yet, you know,  
4 the -- I think there are two of them back there.  
5 Right? WGN is gone, Comcast and Clear Channel? Okay.  
6 Maybe we can really talk a while.

7 I heard that two of you guys are kind of  
8 leaning one way, two are going the other way, and one  
9 in the middle. Okay. The one that replaced Chairman  
10 Powell, that's where I'm going to direct most of it  
11 to there. I see the interpreters gone, so her fingers  
12 won't get numb. You guys can be able to get your  
13 behinds rested up after I get through talking.

14 I want to address for you one issue. Can  
15 we kind of get to the situation where it's like this  
16 right now, where if I turn on the TV set, I can get  
17 Channels 2, 5 and 7, ABC, off the air, without having  
18 to pay somebody for it. It's going to get to the  
19 point where after a while those who control the  
20 information flow are the ones that I got to go to pay  
21 it for.

22 Once that digital starts to come into play,  
23 you know, all these I can address, that's the one  
24 thing I'm afraid of, I'll have to pay somebody and  
25 they'll hand me the information, direct my -- control

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1 my information flow. Plus there'll be mail casting  
2 things to the communities which I won't be able to get  
3 Democracy Now, I won't be able to get certain things.

4 I'll get the bling bling channel on the south side,  
5 where in other neighbors they'll get more concentrated  
6 political action.

7 If you do anything, let it be like it was  
8 where I had a ham radio operator set. Maybe I  
9 can't -- I don't want to listen to WGN Radio on the  
10 air. Maybe I want to listen to a radio station, I'll  
11 get my own radio station and get it analogily out.  
12 But with digital, those who control the information  
13 flow, I'll have to pay them money, because right now,  
14 in order to get anything beyond the basic channels, I  
15 have to pay money.

16 I'm trying to get you to really  
17 understanding this. Whoever controls the information  
18 flow by paying, doesn't make it free all the way  
19 around. That's it.

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Can you please state  
23 your name?

24 MR. GOLDHAMER: My name is Don Goldhamer,  
25 and I'm a civil libertarian. I work with the Chicago

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1 Committee to Defend the Bill of Rights, and I believe  
2 that the First Amendment, the right to freedom of  
3 speech are absolute. I believe that the correct  
4 response to bad speech is more speech. It's a real  
5 discussion and a debate.

6 But how can this First Amendment function  
7 if only one view point is heard, if real discussion  
8 and expertise is banned from commercial airwaves, or  
9 relegated to a few hours of the week, whenever it is  
10 controversial? It cannot, and the present situation  
11 is a dire threat to American Democracy.

12 And it is your responsibility to correct  
13 that. Thank you.

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sir, can you please  
17 state your name?

18 MR. ROSENBLAH: Yes, Josh Rosenblah. Thank  
19 you for the opportunity to be heard here tonight. I  
20 actually disagree with some people who have spoken  
21 here tonight about your ability to think about this in  
22 a diverse perspective despite the lack of diversity on  
23 the stage.

24 I have a great deal of faith in your  
25 abilities, although I have a great deal of skepticism,

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1 based on what's happened -- what the FCC has done and  
2 has not done. I would like to see the FCC show real  
3 leadership when it comes to HDTV or what you call DTV,  
4 digital television, because it really is a different  
5 thing.

6 And I would like to see your understanding  
7 made public of what's happening now in the  
8 transformation of media. As was spoken by panelists  
9 earlier tonight about the transformation from a  
10 completely push a couple of stations media to a  
11 different kind of media that only a few people have  
12 access to now unfortunately, and show leadership in  
13 this area.

14 Thank you very much for your time, and I  
15 hope that your work proves fruitful. I only hope that  
16 you are able to think creatively about this issues,  
17 not form some kind of dichotomy about one option  
18 versus the other. Thank you very much for your time.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sir, could you state  
22 your name?

23 MR. FISHER: Good morning. My name is  
24 Rejinald Fisher. I attended the first meeting of --  
25 at the Chicago Temple with Commission Adelstein, and

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1 the other -- two Fridays ago I saw Commissioner Capps  
2 on Bill Moyers' program. I was very impressed with  
3 what you had to say about this whole subject.

4 And I'm a member of the Rainbow Push Choir  
5 here. And I'm grateful for the Reverend convening  
6 this with you guys, and I'm glad you're here.

7 But, you know what, some people have  
8 mentioned the media licensing renewal, that review.  
9 The FCC would go a long way in helping us if you were  
10 to return the period of time that you had when  
11 licenses were up for review, back to three years.  
12 Away from this eight year thing --

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. FISHER: -- because a lot of damage is  
15 done in eight years. And we sincerely need your  
16 assistance there.

17 And, again, welcome to Chicago and thank  
18 you for this forum.

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Ma'am, can you state  
22 your name?

23 MS. DUARTE: Yes, my name is Sabrina  
24 Duarte. And good morning to you all, and I thank you  
25 for your tenacity and your time.

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1           There are over one million Latinos in Cook  
2 County. I'm one of them. I was born and raised in  
3 Chicago, as were my parents. I'm currently a  
4 theatrical and television performer, but I'm also a  
5 former television producer/writer for the local PBS  
6 station here in Chicago.

7           A Brookings Institution study based on the  
8 2004 Census Bureau data found that Latinos are the  
9 largest minority group in the Chicago metropolitan  
10 area. Nearly 19 percent of the metro area's  
11 population. And that figure is growing.

12           It would seem those kinds of figures would  
13 warrant an effort to provide more broad-based media  
14 coverage of issues affecting the Latino population in  
15 the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Unfortunately,  
16 that is not the case. Even with five mainstream  
17 television stations doing English language telecasts.

18  
19           As a regular viewer, I will  
20 tell you that the reality is that issues affecting the  
21 vast majority of Latinos are generally given little or  
22 no focus, unless the story takes on a degree of  
23 national interest, or there's a criminal element.

24           There are currently two English -- two  
25 Spanish-language television stations. Not only is

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1       there presence desperate needed, but the prospect of  
2       media consolidation is insulting and detrimental to  
3       the diverse Hispanic population -- Puerto Ricans,  
4       Mexicans, Cubans, Guatemalans, and many more -- who  
5       deserve to see what is happening in their communities  
6       here in the greater Chicago metro area. It does --

7               MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

8               MS. DUARTE:    -- not serve the public  
9       interest to carry local stories from out of state.

10              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

11              MS. DUARTE:    It's -- if that's what  
12       consolidation will offer.

13              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

14              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you, ma'am. We  
15       appreciate your comments.

16              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Ma'am, can we please go  
17       to the next speaker?

18              (Pause.)

19              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you for your  
20       comments. Thank you.

21              (Applause.)

22              MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sir, could you state  
23       your name, please?

24              MR. LOVELESS: Yes. Good morning. My name  
25       is Marc Loveless, and I'm the coordinator for the

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1 Coalition for Justice and Respect. And before I  
2 became the coordinator of that organization, I used to  
3 work for this organization.

4 And the one thing I did want to say to --  
5 Rainbow Push, I mean -- and I just wanted you to know  
6 that I hope that -- you know, I have -- I'm hoping  
7 good things from what you do here, but I hope you --  
8 all the stuff that you heard about these groups doing,  
9 these broadcast moguls doing for the community and  
10 stuff like that, you need to know, many of them have  
11 never even been in this building before tonight. So  
12 don't buy the hype.

13 The other thing that I think is really  
14 important for you to -- that I wanted to say to you is  
15 that we need to keep internet radio accessible, and  
16 available to the public.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. LOVELESS: Also the main purpose of our  
19 organization is we were organized in response to  
20 direct physical violence against Black lesbians and  
21 gays. We are organized -- we organized to change  
22 people's view points, but we're also organized to  
23 bring attention to the fact that -- of issues like  
24 hip-hop and other things that are also anti-gay and  
25 lesbian, and disproportionately hits us as Black gays

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1 and lesbians.

2 Also I would say keep -- ask you to keep  
3 the options for cable open so that when people choose  
4 cable, they can get to Channel 41, which nowadays you  
5 can't.

6 The make up the Commission I'm talking--

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 MR. LOVELESS: -- about -- See, you got  
9 saved by the time.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Ma'am, can you please  
13 state your name?

14 MS. BURLEY: Yes. My name is De-Anne  
15 Burley. I'm from the Alternate Press. I'm the female  
16 Alex Jones. I'm on Republic Broadcast, Truth Radio,  
17 Walk-Talk Radio, and internet shortwave AM-FM stations  
18 all over the planet.

19 I came here to also state that -- I'm not  
20 only coming to talk but I'm also watching and  
21 interviewing what's going on, because, again, there  
22 has been a very bad situation across the country in  
23 regards to reporting truth in stories.

24 I had -- I work with Major Doug Rokke who  
25 knows about what is going on with the men coming back

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1 from Iraq. Twenty-five year of men are coming back  
2 100 percent disabled -- and women, missing legs and  
3 limbs. And the mainstream media doesn't cover it.

4 I work with legal issues, I work with the  
5 things that happen in the community. I come down to  
6 the community more than anyone, Alex Jones and all of  
7 us. You have to understand that the people were not  
8 counted here. You were directly to the folks that are  
9 behind the cameras, at the mainstream press that don't  
10 listen to the public and population.

11 You know what, I'm going to say I hope they  
12 don't listen because more of them are coming to me,  
13 because I've got over a million listeners. And I will  
14 broadcast this because I think that the fairness in  
15 the media needs to be accounted for. My dad was Dan  
16 Burley, Managing Editor of *Jet Magazine*, he also was  
17 the first to write a line to Mohammad's, *Mohammad*  
18 *Speaks*, and was the hub of the *Black Press* through  
19 three different presidents, helping the Kennedys get  
20 elected.

21 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

22 MS. BURLEY: And Dr. Martin Luther King was  
23 a friend of my father's. So please you're on --

24 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

25 MS. BURLEY: -- accountability, and we're

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1 watching you.

2 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Sir, can you state your  
5 name?

6 MR. JONES: Bruce Jones. When the panel  
7 was here in the late '70s, or mid '70s, I suggested  
8 that they -- we have an Editorial Board at every  
9 station. They came up with editorials that we could  
10 reply to with maybe no censorship.

11 We don't have any Editorial Boards, and  
12 that should be crucial aspect of these stations in the  
13 public interest, fairness and what have. It could  
14 even be a substitute for public access on main  
15 broadcast media, and what have you. And you need to  
16 be universal on cable.

17 I would also suggest that to the extent  
18 that the sponsor system may obviate the licensee's  
19 obligation to program in the public interest, you  
20 should fix it so they can't buy a program or an hour,  
21 they have to buy the time in between programs. Maybe  
22 no more than five minutes on the hour and at the  
23 bottom of the hour, you know, 10 minutes of the hour  
24 goes to the advertising, the rest of it goes to the  
25 public and programming.

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1 And the -- oh, to elect a public board at  
2 the stations it should be -- need to there layers:  
3 primary, election, semi-finals, and finals, and maybe  
4 at least 12 or 13 things --

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 MR. JONES: -- on the board from the  
7 public.

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Can you state your  
11 name, please?

12 MR. ABID: Omer Abid. I'm a physician. I  
13 was Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health  
14 Service at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.  
15 I was born here in Chicago. My wife and I wanted to  
16 come back to Chicago. I'm now at the University of  
17 Illinois researching in epidemiology.

18 I wanted to bring up the study in one of  
19 the top medical journals of the world, *The Lancet*,  
20 published in October by Johns Hopkins School of Public  
21 Health, by far the number one public health that  
22 655,000 Iraqis are now dead. They're not here,  
23 they're dead.

24 And the media didn't report that. And now  
25 the same media is trying to increase this war with

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1 Iran. And I'm one of six million American Muslims  
2 *contributing to this society and we've -- we don't*  
3 feel welcome here because of what this gentleman  
4 accurately called hate media.

5 I want to refer to --

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. ABID: -- that statement there, it  
8 says, "Know before whom thou standeth". And I appeal  
9 to you all, as a human being to all five of you human  
10 beings, I appeal to you to stand up to big media who  
11 are the six companies controlling the whole media of  
12 the United States.

13 We don't -- we do not have a free press.  
14 So God bless you. Thank you for coming to Chicago.  
15 And may God give you courage.

16 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
19 this concludes the Commission's fifth hearing on media  
20 ownership. On behalf of the Federal Communications  
21 Commission, I would like to thank you for your  
22 attendance and participation.

23 (Whereupon, at 12:30 a.m., Friday,  
24 September 21, 2007, the public hearing was adjourned.)  
25

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